MONTEREY NEWS

APRIL 1994

THE TOWN

A Special Town Meeting and the Annual Town Meeting will be held at the Monterey Firehouse on Saturday, May 7, 1994. The Special Town Meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and the Annual Town Meeting will begin at 9:30. There will be an informational meeting at the Monterey Firehouse on Tuesday, May 3, at 7 p.m., to review the warrant and answer any questions.

The Selectmen met with representatives of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) to discuss the School District Agreement. Last spring the state notified the SBRSD that it was not in compliance with the state mandate to revise the School Committee's representation to a "one-person, one-vote" system. Under this system, Monterey would have two representatives on the School Committee (based on population); we now have one. Sheffield, where the greatest student population resides, would have four voting representatives, and the other three member towns would have representatives based on their population. Last summer a task force reviewed the options for compliance with the state mandate and recommended that the School District Agreement be amended to provide for two School Committee representatives from each of the member towns, all ten of whom would be chosen in a district-wide election. This would give all member towns of the SBRSD an equal voice in making decisions. Selectmen Chair Georgiana O'Connell noted that this is a good time to change the agreement because the school budget is based on a per-pupil amount mandated by the state. Decisions now before the School Committee concern curriculum and do not effect the budget in any member town. Therefore, O'Connell said, "This is the time to weigh in on the side of equality—two votes for each member town." The matter has been tabled pending action by the School Committee.

TOM ROSENTHAL

Roger Tryon in the sap house at Lowland Farm.

The Board met with Town Treasurer Mary Ellen Brown to discuss a cash-flow problem. The Town has had to borrow money twice this year for a total of $880,000 at a cost of $9000 to tax payers. This is because tax bills were mailed late. When asked why, Mike Banner explained that the Assessors have been working on revaluation, and in the midst of that work the state required that Monterey change the personal property tax assessment from 8% to 4%. The State also required the Assessors to send a questionnaire to all second home owners. These tasks increased the time needed for the revaluation, and ultimately delayed issuing the tax bills. Banner also noted that this situation is unique to the revaluation year, and is not likely to be a problem in the future.

The Selectmen conducted a public hearing at 8 p.m. on Monday, March 14, to obtain public input prior to establishing the percentage of the local tax levy to be borne by each class of property. Assistant Assessor Harry Gustafson was present to explain the current classification, and to recommend that the factor of 1 be retained for all five classifications, so that residential, commercial, industrial, open-space, and personal property classes all pay the same rates, based on full evaluation.

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The Selectmen appointed Shirley Olds and Pauline Nault to the Council on Aging for three-year terms ending June 30, 1996.

— Maggie Leonard

ARTICLES DEADLINE

The Board of Selectmen has announced that 10 a.m on April 1, 1994, is the deadline for submission of articles for inclusion on the Warrant of the Annual Town Meeting on May 7, 1994.

PERC TEST SEASON

The Monterey Board of Health has announced that percolation tests may be conducted and deep observation holes dug this spring between March 1 and May 31.

In accordance with the provisions of the State Environmental Code, Title 5, 310 CMR 15.03 (4) (c), testing early in the period will depend on the weather. Perc tests cannot be made in frozen soil.

Application forms for percolation tests in Monterey are available at the Town Offices. Applicants should submit completed forms together with the required fee of $100 to the Monterey Board of Health, P. O. Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245. All questions regarding tests should be directed to the Town's Sanitary Officer, Peter J. Kolodziej (243-2100).

To have perc tests and deep observation holes witnessed, pursuant to 310 CMR 15.03 (1), contact Mr. Kolodziej not less than three full days (seventy-two hours) before the proposed time for digging and testing. In case of emergencies or highly unusual circumstances, it may be possible to arrange witnessing on shorter notice. Final determination of a convenient date and time will be a matter of mutual agreement, and may well be more than three days from the time of initial contact.

DUMP SCHEDULE

Summer season hours for the Monterey Disposal Area will commence on Sunday, April 3, 1994, as follows:

Sunday	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m. – 1 p.m. (unchanged)
Saturday	8 a.m. – 1 p.m. (unchanged)

Applications for vehicle stickers may be obtained at the Town Offices any time; completed applications together with the fee may be mailed, or left at the Town Offices during regular working hours. The sticker will be mailed to the applicant.

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RABIES CLINIC

The Monterey Fire Company is sponsoring a rabies clinic for dogs and cats at the firehouse on Main Road Saturday, April 2, 1-2:30 p.m. There is an $8 fee. Dog licenses will also be available at this time. Cats (which are statistically more at risk than dogs in the current rabies epizootic, due to their nocturnal habits, and aversion to leashes) Keep your pets from contact with wild animals, and be careful about handling a pet that has tangled with a wild critter—wear rubber gloves. The rabies virus is carried in saliva and blood.

Dale Duryea (528-9335) is a Wildlife Protection Officer in Monterey trained to deal with rabies.

MONTEREY GRANGE

Monterey Grange No. 291 cancelled its March 2 meeting due to weather. The Grange has been invited to State Officers' Night at Pioneer Valley Pomona, Southwick Grange on March 11. Committee members are working on the Grange Week display at the Monterey Post Office April 24–30.

Members met on March 16 at the meeting room despite a sudden, severe storm. The program was We Want More Irish Stew. Highlights of the evening were Cowboy Stew made by Barry and the March birthday cake baked and decorated by Master Tolitha Butler. Mary Wallace gave an informative report of the regional meeting. State and national Grange contests and projects were outlined, and materials given out which included deaf activities. Monterey Grange No. 291 will host Berkshire South Pomona No. 25 on April 27 at 8 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 6. Theme of the program will be educational aid, in charge of the Youth Committee, and Easter, in charge of the Lecturer.

— Fraternally,
Mary Wallace, Lecturer

MONTEREY DEMOCRATS REORGANIZE, NOMINATE CANDIDATES

The Monterey Democratic Town Committee held an organizational meeting on March 11. Six new committee members were added. They are Gary Shaw, Shirley Olds, Gerry Shapiro, Lucie Lancome, Dan Moriarty, and Andrea Chase Dunlop.

The new Town Committee then elected officers to serve for the next two years. Bob Gauthier will serve as Chair, Melvene Dyer-Bennett as Vice Chair, Muriel Lazzarini as Secretary, Andrea Chase Dunlop as Treasurer, and Gary Shaw as the Affirmative Action person. The new permanent nominating committee includes Cynthia Weber, Gerry Shapiro, Melvene Dyer-Bennett, Barbara Swann, and Bob Gauthier, ex officio.

Following the Town Committee meeting the Monterey Democrats held a caucus to nominate candidates for Town Offices. The results are as follows: Selectman, Georgiana O'Connell; Assessor, Gary Shaw; Board of Appeals, Edith Wilson and Cynthia Weber; Cemetery Committee, Linda Thorpe; Finance Committee, Dan Moriarty; Library Committee, John Higgins and Eileen Clawson; Park Commission, Howard Burns, Jr.; Planning Board, Joyce Scheffey; Town Clerk, Barbara Swann; Tree Warden, Roger Tryon.

— Muriel Lazzarini

MONTEREY CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Monterey Cultural Council exists to promote the arts and humanities in Monterey. Its members (Lisa Simpson, Chair; Clifford Aerie, Maureen Banner, Jason Brown, John Humphrey, Lindsay Pontius, and Julie Shapiro) are appointed by the Selectmen for three two-year terms. The Council receives funds from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which in turn is funded by the state lottery. Grants are made to projects that benefit the people of Monterey while promoting the arts and humanities. Applications for grants submitted by October 15 are reviewed by the Monterey Council, which then makes final selections.

The Monterey Cultural Council met recently to discuss excess funds currently in its account, about $4,000. This is money raised at past events such as the Monterey Festival, not a grant, so the Council may spend the money as it wishes. It doesn't wish to sit on the funds.

Anyone with a project or event based on the arts, humanities, history, or the sciences who would like to be partly sponsored by the Cultural Council should submit a typewritten letter by May 1. The letter should describe the project (including the time and location of any associated event), how it will benefit the community, and the amount requested. Please enclose a separate budget sheet as well. Send your proposal to the Monterey Cultural Council, c/o Lisa Simpson, P. O. Box 763, Monterey.

We need your help to achieve our goals.

For more information, call Lisa Simpson at 528-6888 during the day or evening.

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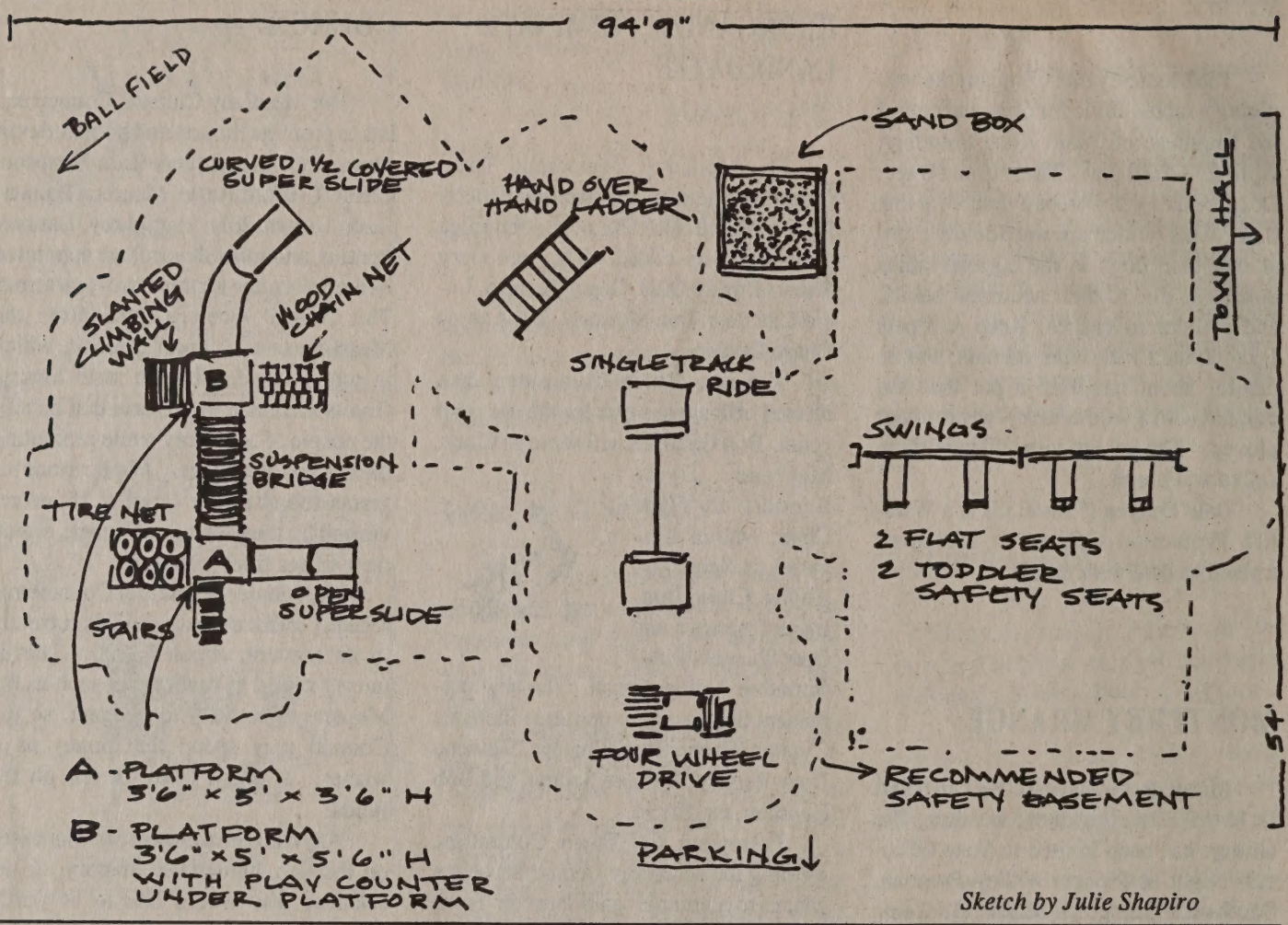


Sketch by Julie Shapiro

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

A good playground balances all aspects of development...stimulating muscles and motor skills, allowing children to work out...social orientation, language development, problem solving, decision making, and conflict.

— Tom Jambor, Prof. of Child Development
Education Week, February, 1994

However you say it, a well thought out playground is great fun, good for kids and parents. If we had all the money in the world, a lot would go for this sort of thing. Since we don't, it's important to look carefully at costs and benefits, which is what the Playground Committee has been doing since last summer. At the Annual Town Meeting on May 7, the Parks Commission, with the endorsement of the Selectmen and Finance Committee, will ask voters to approve an allocation of $19,800 for the playground they recommend. If funds are approved, specifications will be put out to bid. The Committee is organizing a volunteer crew to install the new playground this summer.

Here's a summary of costs:

Main play structure (two slides, tire net, wood chain net, slanted climbing wall, platforms, suspension bridge, play counter and steering wheel)	$8,300
Swing frames, tot swings, and strap swings	1,600
Track ride, ladder style jungle gym	3,000
Climbing toy, toddler and up	1,500
Woodcarpet (resilient safety surfacing of entire play area, 54' x 95')	3,450
Retaining timbers and hardware (to enclose surfacing)	1000
Concrete (for footings as needed)	400
Construction supervision on site	550
Sandbox, sand	donated, free
Gravel subsurface (under woodcarpet)	donated, free
Labor, heavy equipment	donated, free

All components will meet or exceed current federal Consumer Product Safety guidelines. Most components carry a twelve year warranty, with minimal maintenance. From what we've heard and seen, we expect the playground to give

more than twenty years' service with virually no increase in the Parks Commission's yearly budget.

There will be an information table at the town center on weekends before the Annual Town Meeting, complete with site plans, a scale model, and photographs. There is also a video (available for borrowing) which shows the construction of a similar playground built by volunteers.

For more information, call me at 528-0006.

— Carol Lewis Edelman

FUNDING TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS

The Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission has informed officials in Monterey that the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act has made non-traditional projects eligible for federal funding through what are called "Transportation Enhancements." Only because Monterey already has an Open Space Plan (which has one more year to run) is the town eligible for the funding.

"Non-traditional projects" related to transportation might include hiking or bicycling paths, the preservation of a scenic road, or mitigation of water pollution due to runoff. The deadline for the Regional Planning Commission's submission to the state this year is April 8—which has virtually gone by. But funding is limited for this fiscal year anyway; there is a great deal more funding available for the next two years. In other words, it's time now to start planning how Monterey might make use of such money. Got an idea? The Selectmen would like to hear it.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Now that the snow has begun to melt and the mud to rise, we are determined to get out and see some people. Our April activities include the ever popular trip to see the animals at Gould Farm in Monterey April 25, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Rain date April 26. Wear boots and bring a snack or picnic lunch. There will be a parent-infant social hour to celebrate spring on April 26, 1 – 3 p.m. at the Simon's Rock College gym.

The following events are planned by the South Berkshire Task Force on Families and Children: Parenting issues for parents of children up to age five will be discussed on four Monday evenings at St. Paul's Nursery School in Stockbridge, 6:30 – 8 p.m. on April 4, 11, 25, and May 2. Childcare is available. Discussion will be facilitated by Marsha August, an educator with the Berkshire County Extension Service. Parents' Day Off will be held April 23 in Stockbridge. Teen and parent groups at Monument Mountain High School led by Ted Tchack will begin April 27. For information and registration, call Claudette at 528-9311.

Reserve May 1 as Family Fun Day at Eden Hill Recreation Center in Stockbridge. We need volunteers to help on that day. Please call Claudette or Wendy, and let us know how you would like to help.

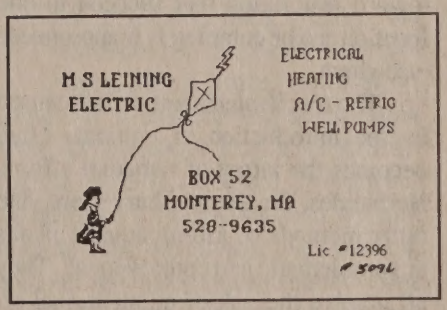
Fairview Hospital is holding a Maternity Fair on April 9, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Activities include child finger printing, pediatric foot screenings, hearing tests, photos with Purple Dino, pregnancy exercise demonstration, parent-child movement therapy, and alternatives in childbirth at Fairview.

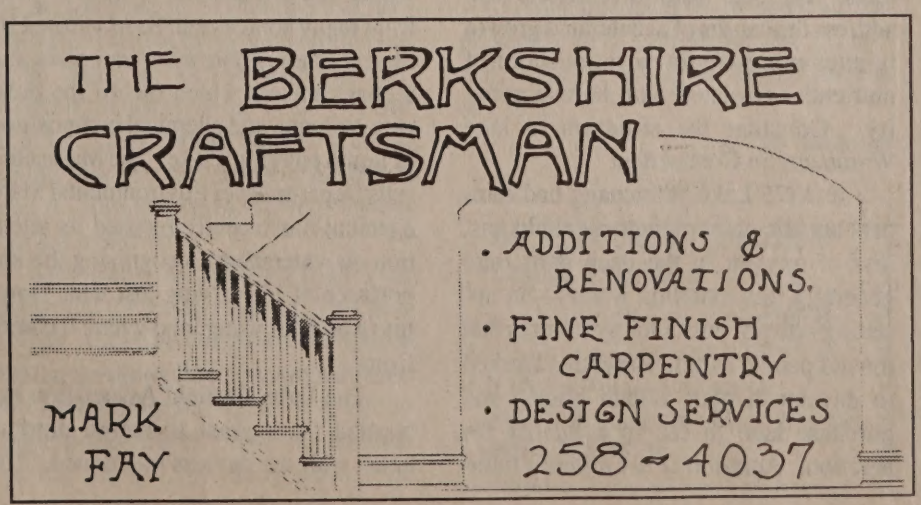
A hand crafted, colorful baby sling to carry newborn infants close to mom is new at the Children's Health Program Store. Stop by and take a look. It makes a great gift for a new mother, and it's a way to help CHP. The donation is $25.

Our video lending library continues to grow. New additions include *Giving Birth to Your Baby* (three types of deliveries, including caesarean), and *Straight from the Heart* (stories of mothers recovering from addiction). Videos are free, but call ahead to see that the one you want is available.

Effective March 8, 1994, the Massachusetts Bicycle helmet Law: "Any person twelve years of age or younger operating a bicycle or being carried on a public way, bike path, or any other public right of way must wear an approved helmet." Note that children under one year old must not be carried on a bike. Helmet specifications are included in flyers at playgroups, and posted at CHP.

— Claudette Callahan





LAKES AND PONDS, PART II

When people are drawn to live on the shores of a lake in large numbers, they have the power to influence the environment that has attracted them. They can compromise the original beauty and appeal, or they can sustain it. Eutrophication, a process in which the growth of aquatic plants gradually increases, can be accelerated by human activity. Some things people do, like fertilizing their lawns, can increase the amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen in the water. These nutrients are taken up by the aquatic plants, growth accelerates, and soon whatever equilibrium was once present, allowing a certain diversity of plant and animal life, is upset, and plant life suddenly dominates.

People get upset, and take steps to restore the conditions they came to enjoy in the first place. This is an extremely tricky undertaking that requires careful observation, clear understanding, deft politics, and usually lots of money. Every lake and pond is biologically different, as are the human circumstances around its shores. Every undesirable situation has its unique solution; steps toward restoration that succeed in one location can be completely inappropriate elsewhere.

The accelerated plant growth caused by the introduction of nutrients often becomes the target of remedial efforts. Herbicides, drawdown, harvesters, and other methods of killing aquatic plants are problematic and controversial. They all involve the risk of unintentional effects. The best restorative efforts also address the causes of accelerated growth by attempting to limit the introduction of nutrients associated with human activity. Consider the situation at lake Waramaug in Connecticut.

In 1975 Lake Waramaug had rampant aquatic plant growth, algal blooms, loss of oxygen in the deep parts, and generally foul-smelling waters—an upsetting array of eutrophic symptoms that moved people to act. Residents worked to develop a plan, obtain grants, and purchase land to set up a facility for aeration. Aeration *is not* a pretty fountain jetting up in the middle of a lake. It *is* a lot of plumbing. The deep waters of a lake are the repository of decaying organic matter, the detritus of the life cycle of plants. The process of decay uses up oxygen in these parts of a lake. Proliferating plant life results in increased concentrations of oxygen-depleted water, which alters fish habitat Aeration seeks to restore balance by pumping this oxygen-depleted water out of the deep into a ponded series of baffles about the size of a double tennis court, where it makes contact with restorative oxygen. The aerated water is then pumped back into the lake. It's costly but effective.

Steps taken at Lake Waramaug also included a system of catch basins where streams enter the lake. These are simply large, shallow concrete boxes that trap nutrient-bearing sediments, and prevent them from entering the lake. The sediment is cleaned out regularly. This is a simple, effective way to limit the entry of nutrients into a lake fed by streams. It is an effort to deal with causes, as opposed to effects. Nitrogen and phosphorus occur naturally in any watershed containing organic matter (What watershed *without* organic matter would attract people, anyway?), but they also leach from household septic systems, and run off fertilized lawns, golf courses, and farm fields into a lake.

The more hidden sources of nutrients are called non-point-of-entry sources, like phosphorus brought from the ground by springs, or septic systems within the watershed. Nutrient entry from many sources can be monitored by littoral (shore) porewater samplers and seepage meters which record the pressure, volume, and chemical composition of liquid entering a lake. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management has recently focused its attention on watersheds, recognizing the importance of identifying just what flows into a body of water, and where it comes from.

The Lake Garfield Association has applied for a grant to record nutrient entry with the devices mentioned. The results of these samplings can direct preventive efforts to the areas where they are most needed. In addition, this April the Association will measure phosphorus levels as part of the Water Watch Partnership. Since plants bind many of the nutrients introduced, measuring the levels of phosphorus and nitrogen carried by water in the early spring, just as the growing season begins, gives a truer indication of the degree of nutrient loading.

Treating effects (accelerated plant and algal growth) may in some cases relieve fears and satisfy a need to do *something* in the face of a complex problem. But addressing causes (introduction of nutrients) offers better prospects for long term solutions. Careful observation and record keeping lay the foundation for taking effective steps to stem the flow of nutrients into our lakes and ponds. Taking these steps we serve the interests of all who enjoy boating, swimming, fishing, hunting, trapping, and just plain watching all the wildlife native to the waters of our region, not to mention the economic interests of all who depend on the continued viability of our lakes as popular attractions.

— Patricia Edelstein

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COMPOSTING SEMINAR

The Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA) has awarded a grant to the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) in Pittsfield to increase on-farm composting in western Massachusetts.

To begin the project, CET will conduct an all-day seminar at the South County Center of Berkshire Community College on Wednesday, April 13, starting at 9:30 a.m. The seminar is co-sponsored by the Berkshire County Farm Bureau and Soil Conservation Service.

Maarten Van de Kamp, Agricultural Composting Coordinator for the DFA, will discuss regulatory issues, and Mark Grennon, District Conservationist from the Soil Conservation Service, will comment on farm composting managment. CET Composting Specialist John Majercak will talk about linking farms with businesses, schools, and institutions which generate organic waste. At press time, two area farmers experienced in composting will attend as panelists—Sam Smith of Caretaker Farm and Roger Tryon of Lowland Farm in Monterey. The program includes an afternoon visit to Sunways Farm, which composts leaves from area residents and food waste from Options Institute.

Beyond this seminar, the CET program will build on a survey of farms and organic waste generators which was funded by the DFA and conducted by CET. The goal is to promote local organic agriculture and provide cost savings to organizations generating organic waste, in short to conserve resources and cut waste.

For information, call Sherill Baldwin at 445-4556 or 1-800-238-1221. Those wishing to attend the seminar should register by April 6.

TOM ROSENTHAL

Tarsi Dunlop with the newest kid on the farm. Rawson Brook Farm is closed to visitors during the kidding season, and will reopen April 9.

THE BIDWELL HOUSE

As I write this I am anticipating the first flowers of spring at The Bidwell House. Last year several stands of snowdrops in the lower woods were first to bloom, followed by the hundreds of daffodils that blanket the ground around the house. Since we open on Memorial Day weekend, many miss the beauty of our grounds during spring, but I do want to remind you that the property is always open for hiking, and the spring flowers here are wonderful.

Spring also means docent training as we prepare for another season. This year training will be held on five consecutive Saturday mornings to accommodate those who work during the week. We will be studying the life of Reverend Bidwell and his family, the early history of Monterey, eighteenth century architecture and daily life, how the Bidwell House property was used from 1750 to the present, and touring techniques. Docents from the Mission House, Ashley House, and The Bidwell House will participate in a progressive house tour, to help us better understand eighteenth century life in Berkshire County. Docents work two weekend days per month from June through mid October. That's only ten days a year, and well worth it! For those who can't work on the weekends, we can use you during the week as well. It's lots of fun and a great learning experience. Call me at 528-6888 if you want to know more, or would like to participate.

The Girl Scouts will begin touring the house this month, and will participate in a folk art workshop sponsored by the museum. We will also have visits this spring from three scholars who are researching the use of our property over time. I would like to thank the following bed and breakfast establishments for donating rooms and morning meals to the scholars over the next few months: Mountain Trails, Monterey; Elling's B & B Guest House, Seekonk Pines, and Littlejohn Manor, Great Barrington; the Golden Goose, Tyringham; and the Merrill Tavern Inn, Lee. Without these in-kind donations, the museum would not have been able to conduct this important research project. We remind you all that results of the research will be presented in a symposium on Friday, June 10 at the Monterey United Church of Christ.

— Lisa Simpson

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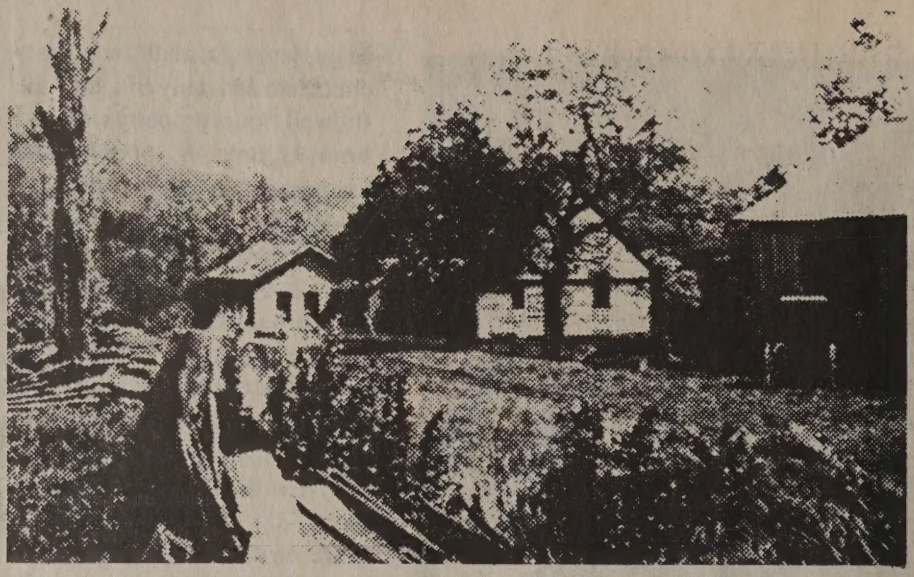


The Garfield house in 1912, when it was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. William Lee Darling. The house was built around a central chimney in 1739. This is a view looking east along Mount Hunger Road. (Photo courtesy of Lisa Simpson.)

THE GARFIELD FAMILY ROOTS

Those on my father's side of the family were Garfields. The farthest we can trace back is to Edward Garfield. He was born in England in 1575. He came to Watertown, Massachusetts in 1630. It is unknown how he came to America. He was a farmer, and was given land grants in 1636 and 1637. Edward married a woman named Rebecca (her last name is unknown), and had a son named Benjamin.

Benjamin went on to marry Elizabeth Bridge, and they had a son Thomas. Thomas, who married Mary Bigelow, had eleven children. One of these children was named Isaac, of whom I am a direct descendant.

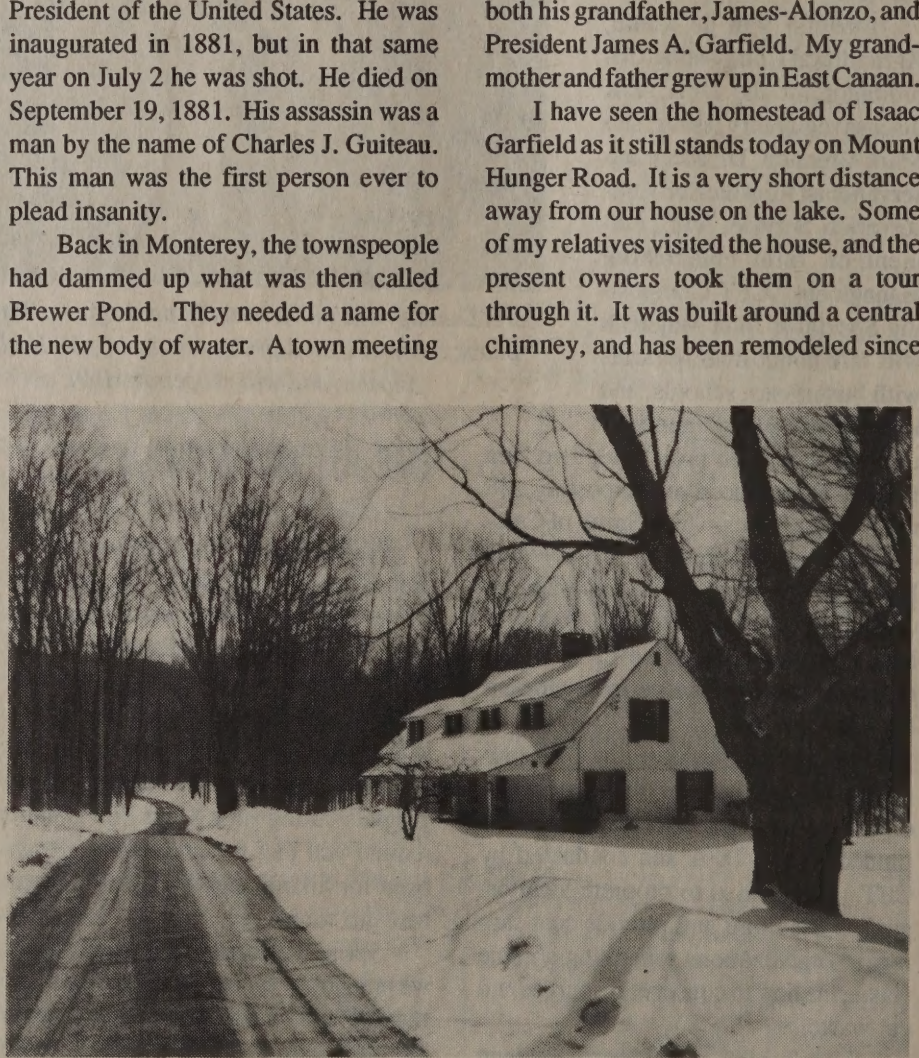
Isaac was one of the first three settlers of the town of Monterey. He built his home on what is now Mount Hunger Road in 1739. Monterey is a small town with fewer than 900 people even today. The center consists of a library, a church, a general store, and a post office. Isaac married Mary Brewer, who was a daughter of another original settler of the town.

James A. Garfield was descended from another of Thomas Garfield's eleven children, although we are not sure exactly which one was his direct ancestor. James Garfield became the twentieth President of the United States. He was inaugurated in 1881, but in that same year on July 2 he was shot. He died on September 19, 1881. His assassin was a man by the name of Charles J. Guiteau. This man was the first person ever to plead insanity.

Back in Monterey, the townspeople had dammed up what was then called Brewer Pond. They needed a name for the new body of water. A town meeting was being held when they got word that the President had been shot. Since he had spent his summers there, and his relatives were settlers and residents of the town, they named it Lake Garfield. They thought if he got better they would send him a notice that the lake had been named after him. However, he died three months later. To this day, the lake is still called Lake Garfield.

Isaac Garfield's son Elisha had a son Abner, who married Emily Bullard. Their son Alonzo was born in Pennsylvania, but he eventually settled in East Canaan, Connecticut, and married Ella Webster. One of their five children was James-Alonzo, who married Katherine McCormick. My grandmother, Marjorie Garfield, was one of their seven children. She married Raymond Deloy, and they had two children, one of whom is my father, James Deloy. He was named after both his grandfather, James-Alonzo, and President James A. Garfield. My grandmother and father grew up in East Canaan.

I have seen the homestead of Isaac Garfield as it still stands today on Mount Hunger Road. It is a very short distance away from our house on the lake. Some of my relatives visited the house, and the present owners took them on a tour through it. It was built around a central chimney, and has been remodeled since



The Garfield house as it appears today. The shed and barn on either side of the main house in the older picture are both gone.

was first built in 1739. When my relatives went to see it, the owners gave them some of the original trim from the house. They also gave them original nails that were used to build the house. The nails had been hand made in Lakeville, Connecticut.

The Garfields were known as farmers, but they were also makers of soapstone stoves and charcoal, both of which were in high demand. There are also stories that teamsters stopped at the Garfield house to water and feed their horses in the middle of long trips.

Two cemeteries in Monterey contain graves of the Garfield family. Both are on Beartown Road. In one, Isaac and Mary Brewer are buried next to each other, and in the other there are many Garfields buried. We often go to visit these graves. The stones are very old and have almost fallen down, and it is also very hard to read what is inscribed on them.

I am lucky to have ended up in the same town that my family started in. I am able to see the homes and graves of my early ancestors.

My stepmother grew up on Lake Garfield in the summers. My father was still living in East Canaan when he met my stepmother in Great Barrington. My stepmother still lives in the same house she grew up in, and now I spend my summers on Lake Garfield also.

— Liz Deloy

Liz Deloy is a freshman at Shepaug Valley Regional High School in Washington, Connecticut. She wrote this essay for her history class.

FREE JAZZ CONCERT

Cliff Aerie and jazzXpress will present an evening of jazz free of charge in the Monterey Church on Friday evening, April 8 at 8 p.m. The band is an outgrowth of Critical Theory, another band now on extended sabbatical while its founder Chris Bakriges pursues his doctoral program in ethno-musicology. The jazzXpress musicians are Betty MacDonald, violin and vocals; Ted Perry, piano; Cliff Aerie, saxophone; Ram Miles, bass; and Jeff Dowd, drums. The new group performs classic jazz standards as well as original compositions.

Cliff is stepping down as pastor of the Monterey United Church of Christ, and regards the concert as a parting gift to the community. "Jazz is one of my deepest loves, and I thought it would be appropriate," says Cliff, who also hosts a monthly radio show called Jazzfest on WAMC 90.3 or 105.1 FM. His upcoming program will be aired on Wednesday, April 6 at 9 p.m.

A free-will offering will be taken after the concert, proceeds to the Monterey Church. For information, call 528-5850

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LOCAL HISTORY NOTES

Last month's *Monterey News* included a brief article on Marshall Spring Bidwell, also known as Blue, as well as one of his pencil sketches of a Monterey scene from the mid nineteenth century. This month we include his drawing titled "The Upper Village, Monterey" and dated July, 1857. When I first saw this sketch it puzzled me. The United Church of Christ in the center of town today looks nothing like the church pictured here. What did "Upper Village" mean? Where was this scene drawn?

It finally dawned on me that this was the "Old Center" of Monterey. In the eighteenth and very early nineteenth century, the center of today's Monterey (then called Tyringham) was at the intersection of Beartown, Fairview, and Carrington-Battelle Roads. The church in the scene is the Second Congregational Church, dedicated July 4, 1798. It replaced the burned-out meeting house built in the 1740s for the first settlers. This second church served until 1849, when the currently used church was built. After 1849 the second church continued to be used on and off by other sects until it was sold, dismantled, and moved to Housatonic in 1873 for use by the Methodist Episcopal Society. It remains a church in Housatonic, although renovations this century have obscured its architectural history. As far as we know, this drawing by Blue Bidwell is the only image of Monterey's Second Congregational Church. It was located next to the parade grounds, which remain open and easily recognized today.

A number of other buildings in the sketch still exist. Opposite the church is a house with covered porch and fanlight window in the attic. This is now the home of Maria Carvainis and Ian Jenkins. The house was built about 1830 by Bidwell Brewer, a grandson of Reverend Adonijah Bidwell. Bidwell and his brother Sylvester ran the B & S Trading Store downstairs in this substantial brick house until around 1836, when they defaulted on their mortgage, and it became the property of their wealthy uncle Adonijah Bidwell, Jr. The home remained in the Bidwell family until 1887, when it was sold to the Clapps to run as a boarding house. When this scene was drawn in 1857, the home belonged to Blue Bidwell's father, Marshall Spring Bidwell, Sr., a famous lawyer in New York City who used the property as his summer home from 1856 until his death in 1872.

Directly between the Carvainos/Jenkins home and the church, you can just make out a small single-story building. This was a one-room schoolhouse thought to be the first one built for the town. Today, after much remodeling, it serves as a home.

To the right of the church stands another two-story house with a one-story extension in back. This is currently the home of the Wolf family, and today looks exactly as it was drawn by the artist 137 years ago.

Gone are the two shed-like buildings which appear in the foreground of the sketch. Many more trees have grown up around this area, especially on the hill behind the church.

— Lisa Simpson

CHURCH NEWS

For six years I have had the privilege of sharing my thoughts on these pages of the *Monterey News*. Now that my duties as pastor of the Monterey United Church of Christ are drawing to a close, so too is the responsibility of composing a monthly epistle for this paper. This is the last column that I will be writing. So what does one say to end six years of sharing, not to mention a half dozen years of ministry? Good-bye? Frederick Buechner, one of my favorite writers, says this about—GOOD-BYE:

A woman with a scarf over her head hoists her six year old up onto the first step of the school bus. "Good-bye," she says.

A father on the phone with his freshman son has just finished bawling him out for his poor grades. There is mostly silence at the other end of the line. "Well, good-bye," the father says.

When the girl at the airport hears the announcement that her plane is starting to board, she turns to the boy who is seeing her off. "I guess this is good-bye," she says.

The noise of the traffic almost drowns out the sound of the word, but the shape of it lingers on the old man's lips. He tries to look vigorous and resourceful as he holds out his hand to the other man. "Good-bye." This time they say it so nearly in unison that it makes them both smile.

It was a long while ago that the words *God be with you* disappeared into the word *good-bye*, but every now and again some trace of them still glimmers through.

Good-bye. May the words that express our deepest feelings still glimmer through—God be with you!

— Cliff Aerie

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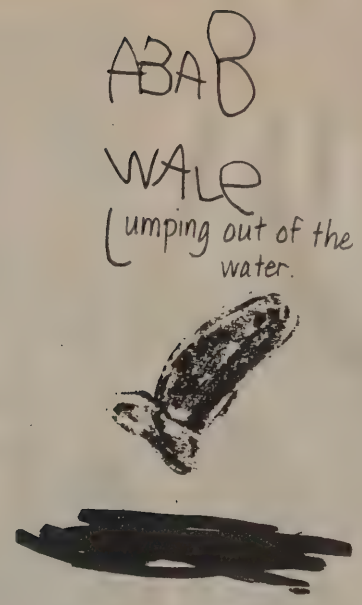
WHEN APRIL COMES

There's a canopy of blue above the earth
When April sunshine brings to life the flowers.
With open arms she welcomes each one's birth
And bathes them all with cool refreshing showers.
The willows wave their tresses in the air
As April sends her gentle breezes high
While fiery buds on maples that were bare
Stand out against a cloudless cobalt sky.
Along the garden walks small crocuses
Greet us with their colors gay and bright;
And in the marshes peepers loudly raise
Their happy, chorused voices through the night.

— Eleanor Kimberley



HA HA

Laughing,
I looked up at the moon
And told her my secret.
"I am a poet,"
I said to the moon.

Laughing,
The moon looked down on me
And told me her *secret.*
"I am the sun,"
Said that foolish
Arrogant
Moon.

— Patricia Howard

SPRING

Cherry blossoms snow in
the perfumed wind pinkandwhite
The lemonkiss of the sun is warm
in your hand
on my cheek
Eyes hear the beauty
Fingertips taste the braille
of love.
So lie on your grassy pillow, redhair
and catch the warm sigh of the snow

— Micole Raab

VOLATILE SNOW

This snow, although intransigent it seems
(For these three months to dominate our lives),
Still, when it frowns, then after that it beams,
And many other countenances contrives.

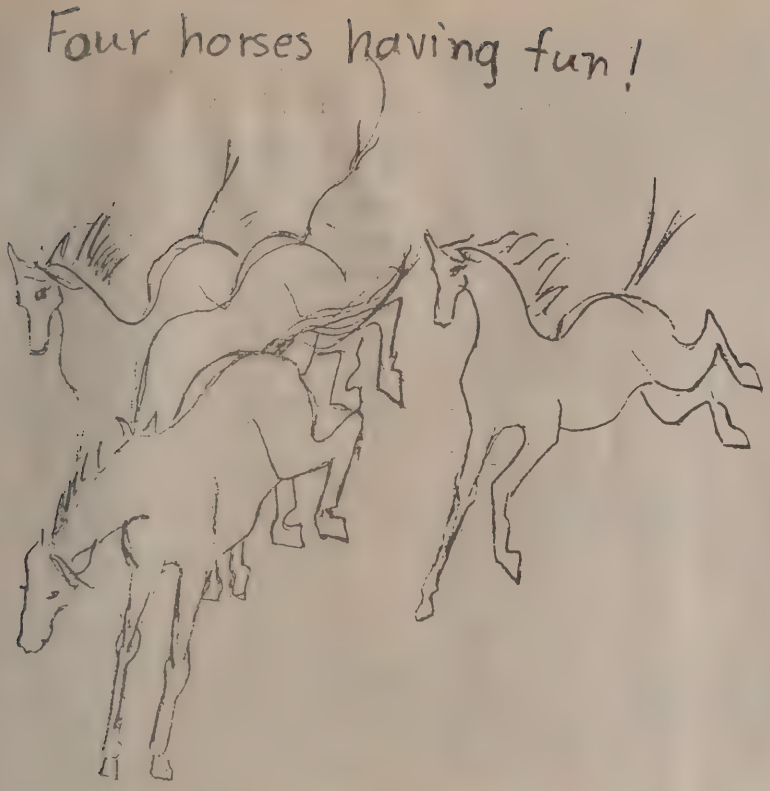
First it descends, a swirling powder puff
That flies away on every latest breeze
As though the snowing down is not enough:
At snowing up is equally at ease,

Then lies, a stiffening quilt, all through the woods,
That glitters under sun and under moon;
Develops an iron crust (of shoddy goods)
That melts down on the first warm day, by noon,

And turns to soup, an icy, slushy slough,
A flash-flood rushing down our narrow drive
(with high cold banks) before the adamant plough,
To freeze again—at playing dead connive.

But whether Christmas card or glimpse of Hell,
And, however much we may deplore,
Its many faces please us well:
We'd not have one day less (or one day more!)

— David P. McAllester



TO A HELICOPTER

Twinkle, twinkle, little helicopter
Up there in the sky so high.
I wonder, will the moon adopt her
In the future bye and bye?

— Tertius Chandler

BIRDWATCH

all, all, all
is wings
soaring, sailing, lilting
feathersings
bird, word
up to air
fall to there
fluted hope
swooping scope
trapping song
you along
and smiling skywards
feather strokes of love
feather mourns of dove
geese lift to clouds
clouds honk to sun
streak north to noon'
spring-sing
dive, dive, dive
oval alive
silver meadow moon
featherfolded trust
must come
morning wake us both
even wingless, one

— A. O. Howell

BOSNIAN SNOWFALL

Relentless, persistent
Hasten the down-
lying, out solid
Covered wastelands'
Knot tangled'
leafy dishevelments
Fall as'
But wishes

Warmers pasttimes
Slurp the boulders
down the trenches
Remember me
Fetch the remains

Spring knows
No boundaries
Come true

— Melissa Warner

OTTERS, FOR FUN AND GRACE

I read Gavin Maxwell's *Ring of Bright Water* when I was in high school, and developed a longing for an otter. I bet anyone who has ever read the book, at any age, has felt the same thing. We had a home-made swimming pool, a sort of concrete bowl with a fence around it, and I imagined watching my otter rolling and playing in the water there, just like Maxwell's Mijbil in the Scottish tarns.

As I recall, this otter or some other one gave Maxwell a bad bite at one time, and they all ate many fish, of which we ordinarily had none in our swimming pool. We would have had to stop chlorination and probably stop swimming, too. It did not seem too high a price to pay.

In the end, though, I either came to my senses or else returned to my principal longing, which was for a horse. This we eventually got, and we kept it in the garage rather than in the swimming pool. It meant the car had to stay outside, but we were able to continue swimming.

Horses are different from otters in many ways, chief among them being that they never touch fish and they do not go tobogganing under any conditions. Also, horses grow up and act mature, stand around a lot, and look serious. Otters, according to Ernest Thompson Seton, never do this. "It is the rule for young animals to play together, and occasionally the full-grown will indulge in a good-natured sham fight or a chase, for sport, but this (otters) is the only case I know of among American quadrupeds where the entire race, young and old, unite to keep an institution that is not connected in any way with the instincts of feeding, fighting, or multiplying, but is simply maintained as an amusement."

All otters love to slide—on land, mud, ice, or snow. They use it as a means of transportation, giving a few short jumps and then launching themselves in a bellyflop that carries twenty feet on ice, and enables them to reach speeds as great as eighteen miles per hour. They let their front feet trail back along their sides, their hind feet out behind, and even seem to assist their forward momentum using belly and chest muscles, according to one observer.

I have never seen an otter slide, but a few years ago my neighbors had one visit their pond in the winter and we saw the tracks. It had come up the brook valley from the lake, which is a steep grade in places, and even travelling uphill it went for short distances on its belly, as much as three or four feet. It looked from the tracks as though it slid more than it walked. (Once it reached the pond it went under the ice, through a patch of open water, caught a huge "pet" trout, hauled it up on the ice and ate it. Then it kept on travelling east, up through the woods, running and sliding.)

When not fishing or travelling to new fishing grounds, otters often slide just for sport on a stream bank, climbing back to the top again and again to zoom down into the water. The slide gets wetter, slicker and wider. This river-sliding is always social, according to Seton, always done in company. Of all the trappers and naturalists polled on their observations of otters, none had seen an otter sliding alone.

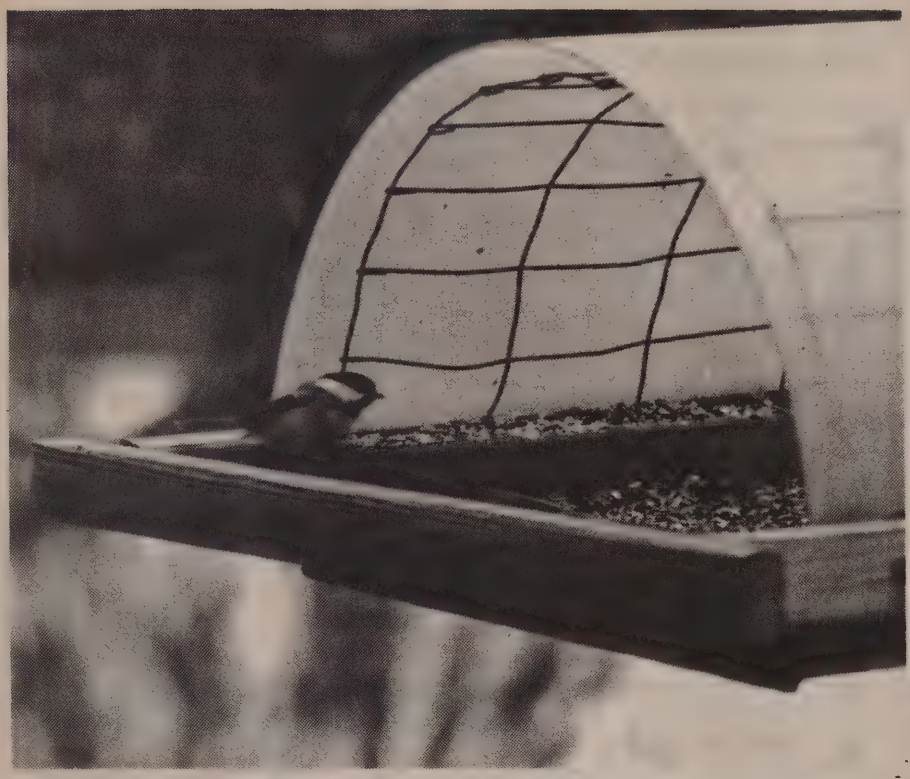
Otters belong to the weasel family. They have thick, gleaming fur, dark with a silvery sheen on the belly and chin. The head is flattened a bit and the nose blunt with many fine whiskers. Front feet and back are webbed, but you rarely see this in tracks unless they are in perfect mud. The neck is long and strong, the tail thick and then tapered. The total length is about four feet, of which the tail is twelve to seventeen inches. Otters weigh ten to twenty-five pounds and may live to be fourteen years old.

A person could easily go through life never seeing an otter (horses are much easier to spot). But we were lucky last Saturday to see one just before dusk out on the ice on a pond near here. She appeared as a black S-curve sitting on the ice, her back humped up and her tail lying out behind. Just beyond her was open water, and while we watched she slid in like liquid and disappeared. Two seconds later she popped up, her head high and pivoting around like a periscope. Then she went down and before long up she came successful with a big fish in her jaws. She slipped out of the water onto the ice, and tossed her head. The fish was gone in about three minutes, and then so was she.

So now I have had my otter, and my horse. We went back to the same place the next day, in case she was back. She wasn't, but my memory of her was so clear that I looked out on the empty ice and saw her again, gleaming and sniffing through her whiskers. This time next month she will have her babies. She will have to teach them to love the water—baby otters resist it at first—and then to hunt, to travel, and to slide.

— Bonner J. McAllester

WILDLIFE SURVEY

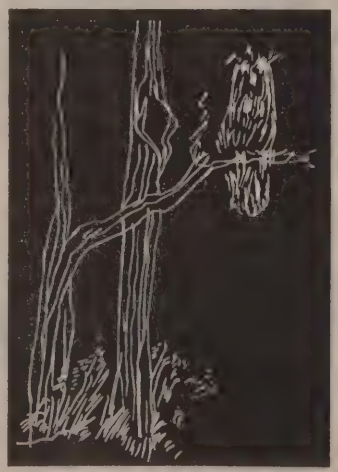


MAGGIE LEONARD

Mammals

As sap rises in the maples, so it does in the mammals. Dale Duryea has spotted beavers where there is open water, making castor mounds to stake out territory and let the females know where they are. Raccoons are wandering about in daylight looking for each other. If they look a little wobbly, or sit very quietly for a long time, they're probably not sick, but readjusting their metabolisms after hibernation. "Just monitor them for a while," says Dale, "before assuming that they're sick. But call in if their behavior is really strange."

Mink are mating, too. An incautious male was found dead on Route 23 near Stevens Pond. Dale says that's only the second one he's ever heard of being hit by a car. Gray squirrels, after seeming scarce last month, are everywhere, including quite a few immolated to the internal combustion engine on the roads. Art Hastedt says the reason the chicken crossed the road was to show the squirrels that it could be done. Chipmunks have been coming out of hibernation. A pair of black squirrels has been seen nearly every day on the Tyringham Road near Pearson's Pond. For the first time in all his years in the woods, Connie Ohman saw a squirrel fall out of a tree. It landed in the snow, unharmed, and quickly scrambled aloft again, more carefully.



Bobcat tracks were seen by Pearson's Pond, and on the Laurel Trail at Gould Farm March 3. A wildlife expert visiting there also found scats (droppings) near a likely den site in the ledges. On February 23 a handsome red fox stopped at the McAllester's pond where the incoming brook often keeps the water open (and where their two ducks often bathe). Then he floated across the snowy pond and meadow like a small, well-groomed, red cloud.

Birds

We can expect signs of spring in the bird population from now on. Doves are calling, for example, and a robin was reported at Gould Farm on March 2 by Bob Rausch. Loul McIntosh reported that goldfinches were starting to change their plumage back to yellow in mid January, and it has been continuing slowly ever since. But where they were a "huge swarm" in January they have been very few in February and March, and white crowned savannahs, white throated sparrows, pine siskins, cardinals, and mourning doves have also been far fewer. A cowbird appeared in mid March. There have been lots of nuthatches, both white and red breasted. Barbara Tryon reports the same at Lowland Farm; the latter are something new at their feeder, likewise at the McAllester feeder at the east end of Hupi Road.

Several large gangs of crows have been reported. Turkeys in small groups have been seen all around; the wonder is that they can get down to any food at all in three feet of snow. Art has seen them feeding on barberries near Fairview Road. Barbara saw a great blue heron and ducks on open waters of the Housatonic in back of the sewer plant in Lee. A Canada goose flew, honking, over Lake Garfield on March 14. Joyce Scheffey saw four bluebirds, for sure, at home on Wellman Road; Lew saw seven.

Plants

The willows are keeping pace with the goldfinches—there is quite a flareup of yellow in their twigs. Osiers are turning red; there have been several short runs of maple sap; there are premonitions of spring color in the twigs of birches and poplars. Pussywillows are in silver bud.

Insects

Loul reports a spring canker-worm (inch-worm) moth fluttering under a bright light at Gould Farm in the evening on March 13.

— David P. McAllester

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ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Leaving the Keys

Without the help of Greg and Jessie, I never could have moved the myriad of things from my trailer into my camper and car for the trip north. We stood and watched my lovely little house sorrowfully be pulled down the road to the storage shed. One phase was finished, and another about to start.

I worked the pain out of my tired body in the warm pool, put on red and white and went with Edith to the Valentine dance. Next morning, with Edith's goodies, I sailed out to Route 1. My hooked-up little Toyota looked like I was bringing the keys with me—tropical plants and ten big palm fronds (to make a "tiki" in Alabama!)

Just before I got into Key Largo, I parked my camper/car on the beach, on the Atlantic side. I thoroughly doused my four dogs in the salt water (good for the fleas) and sat on a coral rock eating my leftover rice salad, looking out for the last time over the azure water. The dogs ran around getting dry in the hot sun.

When you leave Key Largo and head inland past Lake Surprise, the magic of the Keys begins to disappear. YOU ARE BACK IN THE REAL WORLD. (Ouch!) Homestead, devastated by the hurricane, has pulled itself together—new buildings, the many big piles of rubbish are gone. You take Route 997 north past the miles and miles of fruits and vegetables (STRAWBERRIES—U PIC). The earth replenishes itself!

To go across Florida from the Atlantic to the Gulf, a wonderful way is Route 41 (The Tamana Trail). It goes right through the Everglades. You see exotic birds, you pass one Indian village after another, about two hours of two lanes, but you can go sixty! Very few cars, signs saying ANIMALS CROSSING, primitive campsites, state boats into the Everglades, a wonderful visitors' center, Everglade City. *Sometime* I'm going to take some time, a few days, to really explore all this.

I missed Route 951 (which would have put me on I-74 north) so I got lost in downtown Naples (big and getting bigger). Found my campground and called my friend. I looked in the refrigerator (about half way I remembered to switch from ELEC to GAS). Found cooked macaroni, added Edith's hot dogs, Edith's Christmas cheese, onions and mayonnaise, together with Edith's banana bread. For dessert, Edith's fudge. THANK YOU EDITH!

My family, what a joy they are! When I eat a banana, I miss my little poodle Babette—she used to share my banana. She died three weeks ago of kidney failure. She was fourteen. Peter,

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Michèle Miller

my new found-at-the-pound dog is a brilliant Shi Tsu. one and a half, black and white. Brilliant because he loves me to the sky. Easy with my other three dogs, but with my Siamese cat, no. They both hiss. They're getting better! When I leave the camper Peter honks the horn and I have to come running back. These hot days the animals need lots of water. Mio the cat always puts her paw in the water dish before drinking. Maybe she thinks it's a martini.

I'm deep into Edward White's book *The Beautiful Room Is Empty*, an autobiography. I can't read a book that isn't well written. This sends me into glee with "a young man who seemed all hair," and "studio with the bluish light reflected off the late-afternoon snow." White was one of the lecturers at this year's Key West Writers' Seminary. At a party afterwards I met him, young and friendly and humorous.

Next morning early, still dark, I barreled up I-75. It goes forever. About 3:30 I saw the sign BUSHNELL. My camper took the exit. It wanted to. It was bone tired like I was. It took me into Florilon Oaks, where my fellow buddy LOWs gather for the winter. It was a good night, hello to lots of old friends.

Next morning, dark again. Turned off I-75 at Ocala, taking Route 27 diagonally to Tallahassee. (I'll never know why they put the capital of Florida way up there!) The road goes past miles and miles of horse farms. Six a.m. is the time to exercise, lovely to see. I see a new foal nursing. There's Bullfrog Creek, the town of Fellowship, and again I see "I Ain't Here" saloon. Really rural country.

At seven in the morning you stop for gas. You can buy hot coffee (with Irish Cream) and chicken salad on whole wheat to go. I eat while the miles go by. America is wonderful!

Down to beachside Panama City (still in Florida, three days from the Keys). Lee and husband Tex have a big apartment overlooking the Gulf. Lee lived across the street from me in Butte, Montana, the first twenty years of my life. Found a campground across the street and biked to a delicious roast pork dinner...how we talked!

We had breakfast together the next morning, then I was on my way. I went by way of Route 98 along the Gulf from Panama City to my home in Summerdale, Alabama. A little bit longer, but mighty pretty.

My little mobile house looked good. My neighbor had moved my half acre. The same man has the only key to my house. He is gone. So I hooked my camper to hook-ups I put outside my house. Hot and humid, turned on the air conditioner. I'm taking a nap until somebody comes home.

— Joan Woodard Reed

THE OBSERVER - FEBRUARY

The thaw that lasted for days around the third week of February broke the spirit of the relentless winter of '94. After that, nothing worse than so-what winter weather. The thaw raised Monterey's average temperature for the month to within two degrees of Pittsfield's norm. Writing toward the end of March, it all seems way behind us now. For the record, this is what the month held:

High temp (2/20)	56°
Low temp. (2/4)	-7°
Avg. high temp.	31°
Avg. low temp.	10°
Avg. temp.	21°
Monthly norm. (Pitts.)	22.5°
Precip. occ.	12 days
Total precip.	26" snow
Monthly norm. (Pitts.)	2.78"
High bar. press. (2/10)	30.61
Low bar. press. (2/24)	29.64
High humidity (2/12)	96%
Low humidity (2/25)	51%
Avg. wind speed	13 mph
High wind gust (2/26)	45 mph

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***

I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

Brian, Kerry Jeanne, and Paula Snyder

WHO'S WHO IN MONTEREY

Brian Snyder of Gould Farm

He came out of the Gould Farm sugar house with a steaming cup in his hand. "Would you like a cup of maple sap tea?" he asked, after introducing himself. So over delicious tea laced with maple syrup I became acquainted with Gould Farm's Executive Director.

Brian Snyder grew up in Indiana, where he worked at farming, house building, and other outdoor activities. When he went to Hanover College, Indiana, he supported himself by working for a telephone company. He majored in both physics and theology; deciding on a career in the latter field, he went on to Harvard University for a Master's degree, planning to be ordained in the Presbyterian Church. He'd had a year's internship in a mental hospital in Madison, Indiana, and volunteered at Farrington House, in Gould Farm's Boston program, to get the field experience he needed for his degree. Here he learned that his real calling was to minister to the mentally ill. He accepted a position as manager of Farrington House at the same time he was finishing his Master of Theological Studies.

He was deeply impressed by the success of the Gould Farm philosophy of human support through community living. "After a couple of years of experience with the healing effect of close human relationships on what is called 'mental illness,' I began to see the 'normal' self-centered emphasis in our society as superficial." The Gould Farm Board of Directors was also impressed by Brian, and he became director of the whole Boston program. Four residential centers provide support for a graduated process of increasing independence and participation in the larger community. The Gould Farm philosophy thus moves in an ever widening circle into our society as a whole.

Brian met Paula McGurn at a contradance in Concord, and they were married in 1989. She comes from Winchester and went to Boston University and then Framingham State College for a Master's degree in Human Resource Management. She has worked for twelve years for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation. Most recently she was a Service Coordinator carrying a caseload of some forty or fifty people.

In 1992 Brian received the call to the post of Executive Director at Gould Farm itself. He has found that his outdoor experience and administrative training combine well in his new job. Part of Gould Farm's welcome to the Snyders was the birth of their daughter Kerry Jeanne on Thanksgiving Day a few months after they moved here. Paula assists part time as Staff Development Coordinator at the Farm.

Brian feels that the Farm must continue to serve as a model in the mental health field. It is the oldest private residence community in the country, and the most up-to-date. Similar supportive communities have been started across the country, some inspired directly by Gould Farm. Virgil Stucker, now once again in the Berkshires, organized a community in Michigan. Others are planned in Ohio, Virginia, and elsewhere.

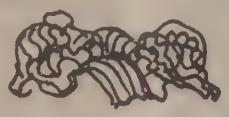
It is not all smooth sailing, as costs invariably rise and financial strictures are felt everywhere. The Farm strives to keep the essential informality of face to face relationships in the entire commu-

nity. "You can't tell from the way we dress who is a guest and who is a staff member. And we don't just work out of offices—the whole six hundred acres of Gould Farm is our office!" And, as Brian says, "It takes evangelical determination to keep administrative paperwork from cutting into the time needed for our most successful work, directly with people."

The ratio of staff to guests at Gould Farm is an extraordinary one to one. There are about forty guests, and actually a few more staff members than that. "We have a strong contingent of volunteers, some of them from overseas, who are brought to us by the Brethren Volunteer Service, the United Church of Christ, and the Presbyterian Church. The intercollegiate Venture Program brings us dedicated students from a number of colleges and universities. Paula helps with all these agencies."

Brian sees the Gould Farm model as a reversal of our tendency, in this age of communication, to forget how to communicate. When human relations are brokered by TV commentators around the globe, they get ever wider, shallower, and less humane. He would like to see more interaction between Gould Farm and Monterey, and reminds us that tea is served in the Main House at four in the afternoon, every day of the year. Anyone is welcome to come for refreshment, and to meet the Gould Farm community.

— David P. McAllester



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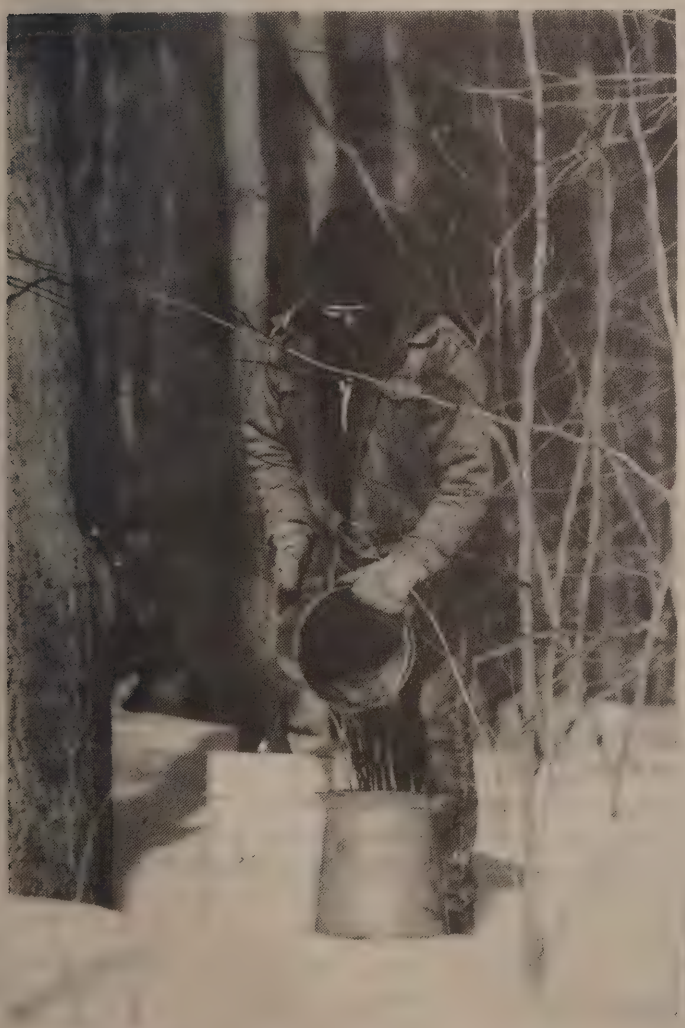

TOM ROSENTHAL

Bob Rausch collecting maple sap at Gould Farm.

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Leo

A few people have asked me, Who is Leo? I understand the question. How many times have *I* thought, I *know* that person, but who is he? The thought lodges in the transitional moment, walking away, as I move from the open-faced world back into my own private mist. It's a worried moment: I hope I haven't been rude; I wonder if I have a damaged memory; then I resolve to do better socially, or else I just give up and accept my own poor faculties and bad manners. I hope not to be judged harshly. So. I know the feeling—who *is* that person?—and I'll do what I can to jog your memory regarding Leo. You've seen him around, even if you've never said two words. The familiar goes unseen so easily, especially living in a small town where so much is familiar.

Leo drives an old Volvo station wagon with a roof rack. He had it painted red a few years ago, and when he pulls up a stocky man in his fifties with curly brown hair gets out. He has sharp, out-from-under eyes and walks to the post office or store with a rolling gait. Leo is a *mensch* whose immediate forebears came to this country from eastern Europe (his name is Leopold, not Leonard).

He lives by himself in an old farmhouse near here, a structure that telescopes back from the dirt road as main house, kitchen, woodshed, shop, and car barn. The big barn is gone. Leo is no farmer, although some years he gardens. He owns the property, which includes fields and woods. The fields produce hay that someone else mows, dries, and bales. Leo goes into his woods with a chainsaw to bring out fuel and material for various woodworking projects. That's how I know him; we are both woodworkers. Currently he makes harpsichords, but he has also made, or worked on: a house of worship, coffins, furniture, chairs, bowls, spoons, walking sticks, oars, paddles, and boats. He is a superior mechanic in the old sense of the word, as one who knows materials—mainly wood and metal—and mechanisms. Early in our friendship I looked way up to him, but our relationship has relaxed and deepened over the years, and I have come to see how he uses his hands, tools, and materials with lean purpose, to make up and make over the constantly changing world that occupies his mind. He is not exactly the spiritual carftsman, although his art is formidable; he is an irreverent bachelor, an iconoclast who makes all sorts of things that speak.

We met when I lived in New York. There was a Russian bath house on the Lower East Side street where I lived, and for a time I saw it only as foreign, imagined those who came and went to be gangsters or perverts, even if they only looked like ordinary New Yorkers. In fact, the place was a remnant of a time in the city's history when the tenements in which I then lived (along with many other disaffected middle class youths) were cold water flats and there was a bath every few blocks patronized by the neighborhood immigrant families.

Eventually I too became a frequent patron. In my time, the baths were for men except Wednesdays, when a sign was hung that said Today for Women. I never really got to know any of the old timers, unless you count Leo, who had come with his father from an early age. In the Russian room, we slowly massaged one another with hand brooms of bound oak leaves, two standing over one lying down flat on the top bench, the hottest spot. Cold water spigots ran constantly into wooden buckets we dumped over our heads when the heat became unbearable. There was a small pool filled with icy green water outside the Russian room. There were showers, marble benches, a Turkish steam room, tiled surfaces everywhere. Set in the wall above the pool was a company name—James Stavrato Tile Works—flanked by decorative tiles showing urns overflowing with fruit. The shiny tiled surfaces amplified the sounds of water, the slap and shuffle of feet wearing the cheap rubber thongs that were issued at the door along with a threadbare towel, two if you asked, and hospital-type cotton gowns. This is where I met Leo, naked and clean as I was.

At the time he was building a table commissioned by a genealogist who lived in Gramercy Park. It was made of Caribbean mahogany supplied to Leo by his client, who said the lumber had been milled in Cuba by his own family in the 1920s and stored away. Leo went somewhere in Connecticut to get the stuff out of a barn.

The table was Leo's design, after his client's concept. The top, which was over six feet in diameter, consisted of twenty-six pie slices coming together in a central starburst inlaid with holly and walnut. The table edge was round and heavily molded, but the apron underneath was segmented. It had twenty-six straight faces about ten inches long, each of which housed a drawer with a letter of the alphabet elaborately carved into its front. The base was a massive pedestal that rose from four ball and claw feet, no two of which were alike. Each foot had its own arch, and the four of them spread from the pedestal with noticeable asym-

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metry. The claws were not birdlike, but leonine. Had they been human, one might have had a white knuckle grip, and another the relaxed, commanding grip of a basketball center. The pedestal had tendons and muscle. For all its asymmetry, the thing was balanced from every view, and all the power in the base seemed to gather just under the richly colored, highly French-polished mahogany top. I had never seen anything like it, nor have I since. The genealogist said it was made to contain "the mysteries." Leo always referred to it as "the library table," but he was just being flip. I don't know how serious the genealogist was; I never met him. I saw this object take shape in visits to Leo's loft during that first year of our friendship. The table itself was a mystery, more than the sum of its parts. I know, because I saw all those parts, and I know how they went together.

For now, this is the best I can do to tell you who Leo is.

I have also been asked, Is Leo real? Of course. He's as real as you and I.

Just as the deadline for getting this month's *News* to the printer was bearing down hard on me, I suddenly wondered if Leo would object to appearing in these pages this way. We both live in the same town, after all. Was I trespassing? Had I grossly misjudged *everything?* I decided to call and run it by him just to be sure.

"Hi. This is 528-----. Leave a number and I'll have Leo call you back."

Okay then. No time left. We'll have to thrash it out with the *News* in hand, and copies making their way through the mail, disappearing slowly from the table in the General Store.

— Peter Murkett

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Gene Peters

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March 18, 1994

To the Editor:

I read with dismay of the editor's visit to the recycling facility in New Marlborough. He apparently missed picking up the self-titled Master Garbologist on his obvious mistaken use of "garb" in his logo. Several dictionaries that I consulted definitely defined "garb" as clothes, dress, and synonymously raiment, apparel, clothing, costume, and attire. Not much to do with trash, refuse, or rubbish. As classification, this discussion may seem to some as carping and nit picking, a tempest in a garbage can. However, I disagree. Most titles involving "master" are given, and not assumed. Looking deeper into nomenclature could have produced "trashologist" or "refuseologist," even "wasteologist." While not trying to live with a language that is hidebound, the dictionary still has a right to be respected. Garb is garb and trash is trash, and garbage is not garb. Sorry someone got there first. The "ology" from the Greek *logos*, which means a learning or a science. The removal and handling of garbage hardly falls into these categories. Where it goes, safely, is the ultimate science.

— Borneo Johnson

(umdated)

To the Editor:

I have just read in the letters a problem that many people have with me, trapping beaver in this town.

First of all, there is no financial gain in trapping beaver; when sold, they hardly pay for my fuel. I do it for population control, period. There are a lot more beaver in this town. The Tryon beaver were flooding Harmon Road. The beaver up stream of the bridge were washing the road bank away, which would have cost the taxpayers big bucks. I trapped them at the landowners' request, not the town's.

As for them being an asset to the environment, they are to a point—about three years' worth, and then the dams hurt the fish with silt that collects behind the dam. The water temperature rises, which cuts the oxygen, then the fish suffocate. As for live trapping and moving the beaver, no state wants them. The New York EnCon are saying they have too many. Down south they are destroying millions of dollars in timber and land each year. They are paying people to remove them. The state of Massachusetts does not allow translocating of wildlife.

Dale Duryea
Wildlife Control Officer

CONTRIBUTORS

Thanks for your recent gifts to the *News:*

Melvin Katsch
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PERSONAL NOTES

Congratulations to **Ellen Pedersen** and **Scott Allison**, who were married on February 27 in Titusville, Florida. Ellen is the daughter of Alf and Lena Pedersen of Main Road. Scott, who hails from St. Johns, Florida, is a former football star who played for the '79 and '80 national championship Alabama team. About twenty-five of Ellen's relatives attended the wedding from these parts, and sisters Anna and Hannah, was well as brothers John, Paul, and Eric participated in the wonderful event. Following a great wedding trip to Georgia and then London, Scott and Ellen are settling back in Titusville.

Our congratulations also to **John Makuc** and **Cynthia Hendrix**, who have announced their engagement. John, son of Henry and Anne Marie Makuc of Main Road, expects to receive his degree from Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine in May. Cynthia, who hails from Washington Depot, Connecticut, is attending Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in Boston. A June wedding is planned.

Kudos to **Giuliana Raab** of Main Road, who recently prepared and hosted a gala reception featuring traditional Italian wines and northern Italian cuisine following the Berkshire Lyric Theater's production of Puccini's opera *Suer Angelica* at the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield.

Hats off to the Sheffield Youth Hockey Pee Wees, champions of the Clifton Park Youth Hockey Tournament held March 11, 12, and 13. Monterey skaters **Lincoln Lipsky** and **Shawn Tryon** helped boost the tournament champions to victory, and it is said that coach **Jed Lipsky** wore a grin that topped the shine on the championship trophy. Great job, all of you!

Congratulations to **Jason Tanner**, recipient of *The Berkshire Record's* 1994 Winter Sports Award. The newspaper presents an award each sports season "to an athlete from each of the four South County high schools who best demonstrates leadership, sportsmanship, and athletic ability during the season." Jason, a sophomore at Mount Everett, lives at Gould Farm. Achieving a 32-5 record during the wrestling season, he captured the 171-lb. Western Mass wrestling crown and finished second in the All-States. The newspaper applauded him "for his unquestioned desire to improve his athletic abilities and his pivotal role in bringing Eagle wrestling back into the limelight."

MAGGIE LEONARD

Gale Forbes and Stephanie Grotz display daffodils sold to benefit the American Cancer Society awaiting pickup at the General Store.

Congratulations to **MaryKate Jordan**, who recently received a letter with the exciting news that her children's book *Losing Uncle Tim* is being distributed in England.

Hats off to **Tom Thorn**, who was named to the fall semester Dean's List at Hudson Valley Community College, where he is enrolled in the School of Mortuary Science.

And hats off to seventh grader **Arianna Aerie**, who achieved High Honors at Searles Middle School for the second quarter.

It has been along winter! We can all sympathize with **Agnes** and **John Mulroy**, who couldn't quite make the Tyringham hill and got stuck one "rotten, dark, and snowy" evening, frustrated and cold as several cars passed them by. They wish to extend their deepest thanks to Monterey good samaritans **George Riley** and **Clifford Love**, both of Main Road, who kindly stopped, got them on their way again, and saw them safely home.

The snow will melt! Be ready to don your volunteer hats and join in the annual spring roadside cleanup on Saturday, April 30. Ready and willing cleaner uppers of all ages should meet at 9 a.m. in Green Park. Drivers with pickup trucks are needed as well. This worthwhile community event can be great family fun, and your help is needed for a successful cleanup. Mark those calendars! The cleanup is usually finished around noon, and participants will be rewarded with refreshments in the Park immediately following. Please contact Jack or Lois Ryder to sign up, or for more info, at 528-2548.

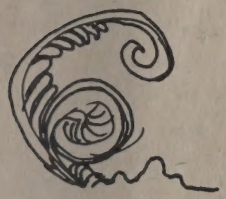
Welcome back to **Natasha Grotz**, who has just returned from a winter term of study at the University of Mainz in Germany. Deeming the experience more than she ever imagined it could be, Tasha enjoys just a few days before returning to Dartmouth for the spring term.

Very happy birthday wishes to **Valerie Costas** on March 13, to **John Piretti** on April 1, to **Maynard Forbes** and **Wendy Tryon** on April 2, to **Eric Pedersen** and **Terry Wing** (his 60th!) on April 4, and **Karl Quisenberry** and **Siobhanna Pope** on April 5, to **Bonnie Cox** on April 8, to **Dan Coburn** on April 18, to **Richard Westenberg** on April 26, and to **Grace Burke** on April 29. And very happy anniversary to **Maynard** and

Gale Forbes on April 5.

Please continue to share news items, birthdays, etc. by giving me a call at 528-4519, or drop items in the mail to me, just Route 23. Your contributions are appreciated!

— Stephanie Grotz



DEMITRA VALLIANOS

Mrs. Demitra "Dee" Vallianos, 70, of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, died February 17 at home.

She was born in Triopli, Greece, on October 16, 1923, the daughter of Mrs. Penelope Stathes Milas and the late Peter Stathes, and moved to the United States in 1924, settling in Philadelphia, where she attended schools. She had been a resident of Cherry Hill for the past twenty-three years, and was a frequent visitor to Monterey, where her son Peter Vallianos lives on Bidwell Road.

Mrs. Vallianos was a homemaker all her life, and after the death of her husband, Jerry Vallianos, in 1982 she continued operating the Elgin Diner in Camden, New Jersey, where she became a hostess. Her son George and daughter Miss Ann Vallianos run the family business today.

She was an active member of St. Thomas Greek Orthodox Church in Cherry Hill, and a member of its St. Irene Philoptocos Society.

She leaves her mother of Runnemede, New Jersey, two sons and a daughter, three brothers, four sisters, and three grandchildren.

The Rev. Emanuel Pratsinakis conducted the funeral service in Cherry Hill, where Mrs. Vallianos is buried.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice Care in the Berkshires, or to the Scheie Eye Institute, in care of Finnerty and Stevens Funeral Home in Great Barrington.

CALENDAR

Saturday, April 2 Rabies clinic for dogs and cats at the firehouse, 1–2:30 p.m. Fee, $8.

Sundays, April 3, 10, 17, and 24 AA meetings, 9 a.m. at the Monterey Grange No. 291.

Wednesday, April 6 Regular meeting of Monterey Grange No. 291 at the meeting room in the town center.

Friday, April 8 Free jazz concert by jazzXpress at Monterey United Church of Christ, 8 p.m. Information, **528-5850.**

Saturday, April 9 Square and Contra Dance, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass., 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults $5, children $2 to dance until intermission. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Wednesday, April 13 Farm Composting Seminar, Berkshire Community College South County Center in Great Barrington, from 9:15 a.m. (See article, page 7.) Information, 445-4556.

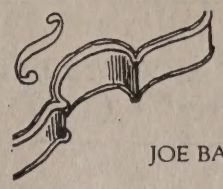
Tuesday, April 19 Free blood pressure clinic, downstairs at Town Hall, 9-10:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 23 Square and contradance, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass., 8:30–11:30 p.m. This dance is for people who have some square or contradance experience. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Admission $5. Information, 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Saturday, April 30 Spring Roadside Cleanup, Monterey. Volunteers meet at Green Park, 9 a.m. Pickup trucks welcome. Information, Jack or Lois Ryder, 528-2548.

Tuesday, May 3 Informational meeting on the town budget to be presented at the Annual Town Meeting, 7 p.m. at the firehouse on Main Road.

Saturday, May 7 Special Town Meeting, 9 a.m. at the firehouse, followed by Annual Town Meeting, 9:30 a.m.



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For changes of address, or information regarding subscription to the *Monterey News*, call Susan LePrevost, Circulation Manager, at 528-4595.

To receive complete information regarding advertising in the *News*, contact the Editor at 528-3454.

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Contributions from local artists this month: Joe Baker, p. 14; Sudi Baker, p. 13; Maureen Banner, pp. 3, 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23; Riley Murkett and Eve Wesson, p. 12.

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